

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application, as amended, and consideration of the following remarks. Claims 1-37 are pending. Claims 1-19 have been withdrawn from consideration. The Examiner has rejected claims 20-37. In the accompanying amendment, claims 20, 26, 31, and 35 have been amended. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found in the specification, the claims, and the drawings as originally filed. On account of the foregoing support for the new claims, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims do not add new matter.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 23-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. In this regard, the Examiner has stated that:

“Amended claim 20 contains the limitation *then shifting the successive instruction into the first shifter from a second shifter in the same clock cycle*. This does not appear to have support in the specification, in fact the prior disclosure of Applicant’s invention seems to indicate going from the first shifter to the second, not the other way around.”

In response, the Applicants point out that if the Examiner switches the interpretation of the first and second shifters around, so that what the Examiner regards to be the first shifter is actually the second shifter, and what the Examiner regards as the second shifter is actually the first shifter, then claims 20, and 23-25, comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. However, in order avoid confusion in the mind of the reader, the Applicant has amended claim 20 so that the first and second shifters accord with the Examiner’s interpretation. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended claims 20, and 23-25 now comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 20, 23, 26-27, 29-32, and 35-37 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable of Shimazawa et al. (USPN 5,646,873) in view of Brown et al. (USPN 5,600,806).

Claim 20 as amended includes the following limitations:

20. A method for aligning an instruction stream, the method comprising:

inputting an instruction stream into a second shifter, the instruction stream being obtained exclusively from a first shifter;

determining in a length decoder and in a first clock cycle, a length of a current instruction in the instruction stream;

if a successive instruction in the instruction stream is contained in the second shifter then shifting the instruction stream to a start of the successive instruction based exclusively on the length of the current instruction, said shifting being performed during the first clock cycle and within the second shifter; and

if the successive instruction is not contained in the second shifter then shifting the successive instruction into the second shifter from the first shifter in the same clock cycle and shifting the instruction stream to the start of the successive instruction one clock cycle later.

(Amended Claim 20) (Emphasis Added)

In the Office Action mailed August 12, 2003, the Examiner concedes that the second barrel shifter of the Shimazawa invention includes multiple inputs that define “what is to be shifted”. The above emphasized portion of claim 20 makes it clear that the instruction stream, which defines “what is to be shifted” by the second shifter is obtained exclusively from the first shifter. In other words according to claim 20, the instruction stream from the first shifter forms a single input to the second shifter defining “what is to be shifted”. Thus, the combination of Shimazawa and Brown does not teach or suggest all limitations of claims 20 as amended. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claim 20 as amended is not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Shimazawa and Brown.

Given that claims 23-25 depend on claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Shimazawa and Brown.

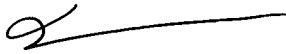
Each of the remaining independent claims 26, 31, and 35, includes a limitation that the output of the first shifter exclusively defines data to be shifted by the second shifter. In other words, a single input to the second shifter defines "what is to be shifted" as opposed to the multiple inputs taught by Shimazawa. Thus, the combination of Shimazawa and Brown does not teach or suggest all limitations of independent claims 26, 31, and 35. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Shimazawa and Brown.

Further, given that claims 27-30, and 32-34, and 36-37, depend on claims 26, 31, and 35, respectively, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also not anticipated or rendered obvious by the combination of Shimazawa and Brown.

Authorization is hereby given to charge our Deposit Account No. 02-2666 for any charges that may be due. Furthermore, if an extension is required, then Applicants hereby request such an extension.

Respectfully submitted,
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